

SENATE BILL

No. 68

Introduced by Senator Battin

May 17, 2001

An act to amend Section 2772 of, and to add Section 351.5 to, the Public Utilities Code, relating to electricity.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 68, as introduced, Battin. Electricity: blackouts.

Existing law requires the Public Utilities Commission to establish priorities among the types or categories of customers of every electrical corporation and every gas corporation, and among the uses of electricity or gas by those customers. In establishing those priorities, existing law requires the commission to consider certain factors, as prescribed.

This bill would also require the commission in establishing use priorities to include the effect on the health and safety of persons in zones or regions that exceed a temperature of 105 degrees as a priority in making the determination under those provisions.

Existing law requires the Independent System Operator to manage the transmission of electricity.

This bill would require the Independent System Operator to consider the effect of zones or regions that reach or exceed a temperature of 105 degrees on the health and safety of persons in a geographic area before ordering rolling blackouts in the geographic area.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) Several cities experience temperatures on average that
4 exceed 105 degrees.

5 (b) A number of illnesses and deaths result each year from
6 overexposure to heat.

7 (c) Without electricity, individuals within these areas will be
8 potentially exposed to dangerous circumstances that could lead to
9 these illnesses and death.

10 (d) For all of the reasons specified in the section, the Public
11 Utilities Commission and the Independent System Operator
12 should take this act into account before ordering rolling blackouts
13 in regions where the temperature exceeds 105 degrees.

14 SEC. 2. Section 351.5 is added to the Public Utilities Code, to
15 read:

16 351.5. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
17 Independent System Operator shall consider the effect in zones or
18 regions that reach or exceed a temperature of 105 degrees on the
19 health and safety of persons in a geographic area before ordering
20 rolling blackouts in the geographic area.

21 SEC. 3. Section 2772 of the Public Utilities Code is amended
22 to read:

23 2772. In establishing the priorities pursuant to Section 2771,
24 the commission shall include, but not be limited to, a consideration
25 of all the following:

26 (a) A determination of the customers and uses of electricity and
27 gas, in descending order of priority, which provide the most
28 important public benefits and serve the greatest public need.

29 (b) A determination of the customers and uses of electricity and
30 gas which are not included under subdivision (a).

31 (c) A determination of the economic, social, and other effects
32 of a temporary discontinuance in electrical or gas service to the
33 customers or for the uses determined in accordance with
34 subdivision (a) or (b).

35 (d) *The effect on the health and safety of persons in zones or*
36 *regions that exceed a temperature of 105 degrees shall be a priority*
37 *in making the determination under this section.*

1 (*e*) Any curtailment or allocation rules, orders, or regulations
2 issued by any agency of the federal government.
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